

27 West 18th St.,  
New York, March 22, 1844.

My Dear Garrison,

I have just read your letter in the Boston Journal, and I cannot resist the impulse to thank you for it. It is full of the fire and inspiration of your most vigorous years, and I am sure your rebuke must be felt by the Republican members of the Legislature. Never were words of censure more imperatively demanded or more fitly spoken. Of course, the Boston Journal was the appropriate medium for such a letter, in view of its local bearings; but how gladly would I have printed it in the Christian Union! And even now, if you will write a fresh article on the same topic, and

making a wider application of your doctrine, I will joyfully give it place. The formal and hypocritical laudation of the unworthy dead is most demoralizing, and needs exposure and reprobation.

I also read with pleasure your article on Sumner in the Independent; it was <sup>a</sup> just and eloquent tribute to his character and memory. I presume you recognized as mine the article on the same subject in the Christian Union.

In view of the late disclosures of fraud in which various prominent Administration men have been implicated, and in view also of various recent illustrations of Grant's character, I am sure you much in your heart regret the severity of your strictures upon Mr. Sumner in 1872. His portrait of Grant's character, <sup>which</sup> was certainly revolting,



may have been exaggerated in some of its features,  
but I can't help thinking it was in the main  
just. Our President impresses me as a man  
of low moral tone, who prefers for his in-  
timates men like himself. At any rate I can-  
not doubt that Sumner's opposition to him  
was like honest and patriotic, the fruit  
of his clear moral discernment. In regard  
to your letter, he once told me that he had  
not read and should never read it; it was  
enough ~~from~~<sup>for</sup> him to know through friends  
that you had spoken of him with great  
severity; he would strive to forget it, and  
to remember only your great services ~~to~~ in  
the cause of freedom. He did not question  
the purity of your motives, but to his dying  
day he felt that his opposition to Grant  
was one of the bravest and most  
honourable acts of his whole political life.  
In all this I may be mistaken. I never  
find myself differing from you on any subject

without asking myself very seriously if I am not mistaken; but in this case my vision is clear, and my judgment, I think, impartial.

In three weeks, Des volonte, Jimmy and I will be in our own house. We indulge ourselves in some bright dreams of happiness to be enjoyed there. She is getting along pretty well, but the present month (the seventh) is somewhat critical in view of what has already happened. Still, our hopes predominate over our fears.

The fourth number of my sketches brings me to the founding of the Liberator, and the next will be devoted to the events of 1832, immediately preceding the formation of the N. E. Anti-Slavery Society. By the way, I wish you would put into a paragraph your recollections of the circumstances attending that event, of the meeting in the Belknap St. School-house, and of what preceded and followed. With love to all your household,

Yours, lovingly, Oliver Johnson.